



PetLinks Volunteer - Dog Walker

Position Objective

To provide support to the older people by assisting in the care and exercise of their pet dog that supports the animal stay in good condition and provides social support to the client.

Key Responsibilities and Duties

- To volunteer a period of time on a regular basis, as negotiated with the Coordinator of Volunteers and client, to provide care and exercise of the client's pet.
- To monitor the wellbeing of the pet dog and liaise with the Coordinator of Volunteers if there are any concerns or issues that arise.
- To abide by all local laws relevant to the exercising of dogs in a public place and ensure the dog is on a lead at all times.
- To scoop up dog droppings and responsibly dispose of them when exercising the animal in a public space.
- To make contact with the client if you are unable to attend at the designated time, either by making direct contact with the client or via the Coordinator of Volunteers.
- To assist and encourage the client to care for their animal themselves as far as they are capable.
- To build a friendship with the client and to encourage social interaction.
- To participate in SPDL orientation, training and team activities.
- To notify the Volunteer Coordinator of any matter that limits your undertaking these duties.
- Apply SPDL policies and procedures while undertaking the volunteer role, especially in relation to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and reporting incidents, Anti-Discrimination and Privacy and Confidentiality policies.
- Able to apply an active ageing approach to speaking and when dealing directly with older people
- Recognise the ability of a person with a disability and support them to reach their potential
- Behave in an appropriate respectful manner at all times and report any inappropriate behaviour by clients or other volunteers to SPDL team members
- Report any genuine concerns in relation to a client's emotional or physical health or situations of elder abuse
- Be aware of SPDL's Employment Assistance Program (EAP) and speak to the Volunteer Program Coordinator or General Manager confidentially should they believe they need personal support

Accountability, Extent of Responsibility, Judgment and Decision making:

The volunteer dog walker is:

- Accountable to the Coordinator of Volunteers for the conduct and completion of tasks while undertaking the role.
- Responsible to work in a manner that complies with relevant legislation and relevant SPDL policies and procedures.
- Responsible to execute his/her duties and behave in a manner that promotes and maintains the excellent reputation and image of SPDL
- Responsible to operate within the role as per the agreed arrangements in liaison with the client

Specialist Skills and Knowledge:

The volunteer dog walker will:

- Possess or develop understanding of the needs of people who are frail aged, have a disability or have mobility issues, and those that care for them.
- Have the capacity to carry out the required tasks as negotiated.

Management Skills:

The volunteer dog walker will have:

- The ability to establish priorities and use time efficiently.
- The ability to set and maintain boundaries with the client.

Interpersonal Skills:

The volunteer dog walker will:

- Possess good listening and communication skills.
- Possess a caring attitude that demonstrates respect and patience in dealing with others.
- Be a trustworthy team member with a strong sense of responsibility and reliability.
- Have a commitment to the rights of others to have their personal information treated as strictly confidential.

Qualifications and Experience:

The volunteer dog walker will have:

- Experience in and understanding of the special needs of older people and those with mobility issues.
- Experience in and an understanding of the different cultures and needs of people from CALD communities.
- The ability to work well with animals and understand their needs

Conditions of Volunteer Work:

- The position as a PetLinks dog walker is voluntary.
- An allowance of \$5 per half day (4.5 hours) may be made or donated back to SPDL
- Volunteers should expect regular support and contact from the Coordinator of Volunteers.

Key Selection Criteria

The volunteer dog walker will have a:

- Belief in the value of companion animals and their many benefits to the client's wellbeing.
- Demonstrated interest in animals.
- Demonstrated interest in older people and people with a disability.
- Capacity to provide support and friendship to clients on a professional and ongoing basis.
- Willingness to take instruction.
- Willingness to undertake a criminal records check.
- Ability to follow SPDL policies and procedures in relation to the application of the volunteer role.
- Willingness to sign a volunteer work agreement and an agreement with SPDL and the client.